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TAGS: MOPS, PARM
SUBJECT: CW -- SOVIET PRESS REPORTS

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 535, (B) STATE 11311
1. SUMMARY: PICKING UP ON WESTERN NEWS REPORTS OF
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U.S. PLANS TO PRODUCE CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, SOVIET MEDIA JANUARY 19 TAKE THE U.S. TO TASK FOR ITS "DREAM TO BUILD UP AND MODERNIZE ITS ARSENALS FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE." END SUMMARY.
2. TASS, PRAVDA, AND SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA JANUARY 19 LAMBAST THE U.S. FOR "WIDENING ITS ARSENALS" FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE. A TASS ITEM FROM ISLAMABAD REPLAYS AN ARTICLE FROM THE PAKISTANI JOURNAL "VIEWPOINT" WHICH CALLS THE U.S. "A ZEALOUS ADVOCATE OF PREPARATIONS FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE." TASS, CITING "VIEWPOINT," CHARGES THE U.S. WITH HAVING USED "POISONOUS GASES AGAINST THE LOCAL POPULATION" IN VIETNAM. TASS SAYS THE U.S. CONGRESS RECENTLY APPROVED MONEY FOR A BINARY AGENT PLANT AT PINE BLUFF, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE U.S

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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CONDUCTS A "BRAZEN CAMPAIGN" ACCUSING THE USSR OF "MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE."

3. PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT H. KURDYUMOV REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON ON THE PINE BLUFF DECISION AND LISTS U.S. BUDGETS FOR "MODERNIZATION" OF CHEMICAL WARFARE CAPABILITIES AS 111 MILLION DOLLARS FOR 1978, 262 MILLION DOLLARS FOR 1981 AND 455 MILLION DOLLARS FOR 1982. QUOTING FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES, PRAVDA ADDS THAT PLANS FOR 1983 REACH 810 MILLION DOLLARS, AND FOR 1984 1.4 TRILLION DOLLARS. PRAVDA ALSO CITES A WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT THE U.S. PLANS TO DEPLOY THESE CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN EUROPEAN-BASED GLCMS WITH A RANGE UP TO 1,500 MILES.

4. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA CARRIES A TASS DISPATCH WHICH CLAIMS THAT AT ITS LAST MEETING THE NATO COUNCIL, ACTING UNDER U.S. PRESSURE, TOOK A DECISION ON

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EXPANDING THE ALLIANCE'S CW ARSENAL. THE U.S. AND ITALY ARE REPORTED TO HAVE AGREED TO AN EXPANSION OF THE U.S. PRESENCE AT NATO BASES IN ITALY. THIS, REPORTEDLY, REFLECTS U.S. INTENTIONS TO STORE CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS IN ITALY AND TO SET A PRECEDENT "TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON ITS OTHER NATO ALLIES ON THIS QUESTION (OF STORAGE/DEPLOYMENT)." HARTMAN

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